

Center of Science Industry (COSI)
Cap City Kids at COSI: 6th Grade After School Program

Goal Area: increasing public understanding (children)

Summary: In January, COSI opened its doors to forty 6th graders from Beery Middle School to participate in an after-school program that focuses on science, mathematics and technology called CCK@COSI. The program is a partnership between COSI, BP America, Inc, City of Columbus Mayor's Office of Education, and Metro Parks. CCK@COSI takes place Monday through Thursday from 3-6pm.

Purpose: As part of the mission of Cap City Kids, COSI provides a safe, caring, enriching environment during non-school hours. In this environment, students form a community that is excited about science, math and technology. One goal of the program is to providing an environment that is academically enriching and challenging. At COSI, students receive help with homework, explore exhibits, access computers, and participate in workshops and presentations. By working in partnership with the school, these activities at COSI enhance the curriculum from their classroom. In a partnership with Metro Park, students take monthly field trips to the park to explore nature. Additional field trips are scheduled to expose students to a variety of professionals and fields of study. Another goal is to provide opportunities for self-development and growth in leadership. Through the daily Interaction with CCK@COSI team, students are provided with positive mentoring and guidance to make positive choices. A third goal of the program is to provide students with service learning experiences.

Accomplishments/Results: Since January, CCK@COSI averages a daily attendance of 36 students. The students keep journals to reflect on their experiences. Their responses give evidence to the importance of this program. One student writes that he "wants to be a professional basketball player or work at COSI". Team members at COSI have served as mentors during a one-on-one tour of the building. Several of those team members have continued to be involved by exchanging letters or participating as adult leaders on field trips.

Plans for next 12 months: CCK@COSI is such an important program because it provides exciting opportunities for students they would not receive otherwise. During the next 12 months, we will continue to build on the foundation providing additional opportunities for students, and provide a full school year program.